

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15-18, and 20-36 were pending prior to the final Office Action. Claims 23-36 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15-18, and 20-22 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 12 are independent. Allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15-18, and 20-22 are allowed. Applicants further appreciate that claims 32-34 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regard as the invention. Claims 32-34 have been cancelled rendering the rejection as moot.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-31 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Slocum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,306)[hereinafter "Slocum"]. Claims 23-31 and 35-36 have been cancelled rendering the rejection as moot.

CONCLUSION

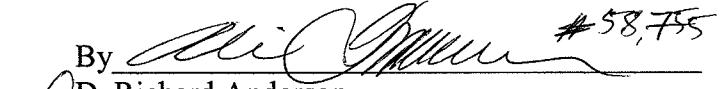
All rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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